

ST. CLAIR COUNTY

Honorable Philip K. Seay

St. Clair County Courthouse
1815 Cogswell Courthouse
Pell City, AL 35125
(205) 338-3869



Jeanette Wadsworth
Zena Hatcher
Sam Kimbrough
Patricia Patterson
Rick Karrosch
Steve Bryant
Susan Hood
Richard Minor
Terry Surles
Jim McClendon
Stan Batemen
Cyndy Henderson
Brandi Alexander
Lori Dark-Bishop
Jim Hill
Janet Jones
Lee McElwain
Tom Sanders
Doris Stubblefield

Marie Manning
Randy Mason
Melanie Chatta
James E. Hill
Bobby Hathcock
Amber Church
Hope Skeleton
Karen Davis
Sharon Mintz
Barbara Pitts
Stacey Payne
Tim Dollard
Pamela Kelley
Holly Jaap
Melida Thomas
Ava Rozelle
June Stewart
Joseph Funderburg

David Gray
Sharon Owen
Roy Forman
Dorian Rich
Linda Walls
Lydia Carter
Mary Lou Street
Scott Bonk
Baron Sandlin
Gloria Craig
Judy Glenn
Dionne Dempsey
Betty Bryant
Reggie Parker
Mary Cooskey
Sally Albis
Cherlyn Fagan

PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

1. All residents of St. Clair County will be safe
2. Highly involved and effective parents of children in St. Clair County
3. Educating parents and community on recognizing delayed development of children and resources available

Issues

Issues are the primary concerns or problems facing children in the county.

Health - Children's (0 - 19) physical and mental well-being in the county.

Childhood and youth of St. Clair county engaging in at risk behaviors

Policy Council Action Steps:

- collect and analyze data to determine areas of need for prevention services
- develop awareness of research-based programs designed to prevent risk taking behavior
- implement research based programs designed to reach targeted populations of at risk youth

Lack of healthy living habits including nutrition and physical activity among St. Clair county children and youth

Policy Council Action Steps:

- collect and analyze data to determine the need for programs designed to promote healthy living among children and youth
- develop awareness of healthy living (i.e. nutrition & physical activity)
- implement programs designed to reach targeted populations

Safety - Children live free of abuse, neglect, crime, and drugs.

Child abuse and neglect- promoting a decrease in the number of children who are abused and neglected through support groups for parents

Policy Council Action Steps:

- develop and maintain on going support groups for parents to reinforce skills presented through program such as intervention and parenting classes
- disseminate the information of the support groups to the referral sources for parents needing help with the application of information provided through the various classes

Children living in homes where domestic violence occurs.

Policy Council Action Steps:

- as a support group for children was developed in 2003, continue to recommend judicial referral of age appropriate children to the "Kids in Crisis" group as a part of the disposition of any court action
- continue to promote the dissemination of information about the group through out the county to promote awareness of the issue and encourage referral of children to the group

Education - Children learn the skills necessary to become productive citizens.

Drop out rate- decreasing the percentage of students leaving the educational setting

Policy Council Action Steps:

- advocate assigned personnel within each school system to track academic student progress through court appointed programs
- advocate funding for academic interventionists for grades 7-12
- advocate continued funding of school nurses throughout St. Clair county through the St. Clair county health authority in order to decrease absenteeism due to illness
- advocate continued funding for the school based prevention program

Enhance literacy for all children in St. Clair County

Policy Council Action Steps:

- advocate continued implementation of the "Imagination Library" throughout St. Clair county
- advocate increased communication and support between the public library system and school systems within St. Clair county
- advocate increased awareness of the St. Clair county literacy council with citizens of St. Clair county

Increase student awareness of educational offerings

Policy Council Action Steps:

- advocate developing an awareness of vocational education among junior high school students within the county
- advocate career day functions among all junior high schools within the county
- advocate the establishment of scholarships in the areas of vocational training for graduating seniors among the high schools located in the county

Early Care and Education - Children (0 – 5) are provided opportunities to fully develop emotionally, socially, physically, and cognitively and are ready to succeed.

Child Abuse & Neglect

Policy Council Action Steps:

- seek out funding sources for teen pregnancy programs
- apply for grant funding and implement program
- educate school nurses & counselors regarding availability of programs (BEAR facts) and encourage referrals as quickly as possible
- encourage county agencies and faith-based organizations to implement programs that prevent teen pregnancy

Lack of skills to be successful in school

Policy Council Action Steps:

- encourage the placement of “success by six” in the county
- make parenting programs available to “high risk” parents
- encourage admission into head start programs @ age 3

Economic Security

- **Children grow up in a financially stable home where the child's basic needs can be met.**

Children receiving AFDC/TANF-improving support systems for families in St. Clair County

Policy Council Action Steps:

- continue to improve child support collection through agency efforts and increase community awareness
- improve employability of custodial parents through increased referral for assessment and basic skills training
- improve transportation for AFDC/TANF recipients through a coordinated effort involving volunteers, agencies and business

Children in poverty-improving the economic security of families in St. Clair County

Policy Council Action Steps:

- the percentage rate of children living in poverty correlated with the school dropout rate. Reduce school dropout rate by increasing commitment to school through mentoring, parental involvement tutoring, etc.
- develop and support a direct relationship between industry and vocational training in St. Clair County (apprenticeships, cooperative learning, on the job training, etc.)
- encourage all agencies to notify their clients about WIC (food assistance for children 0-5, if income eligible)
- advocate for social workers in all schools in St. Clair county to evaluate and make appropriate referrals for children and families in need
- increase participation in free and reduced cost meal programs for children and teens who are income eligible in St. Clair county schools

Parent Involvement and Skills - Parents and

guardians participation and effectiveness in fostering an environment for children to become mature, responsible and independent adults.

Lack of effective parenting skills for parents of adolescences 11-18

Policy Council Action Steps:

- continue to expand parent project sr. in the county
- continue to promote community and agency awareness of parent project

Lack of effective parenting skills/parents of children 0-10

Policy Council Action Steps:

- implement loving solutions program (parent project sr.)
- Bear Facts for families (at risk teenage mothers)
- promote community and agency awareness of Loving Solutions and Bare Facts.

